

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

STADIS ////////////

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: MARR, ESTC, JA, US, UR
SUBJECT: FORESTALLING ACQUISITION OF SOVIET DEEP SEA SEARCH
CAPABILITY

REF: TOKYO 12289

1. LCDR ERIC OSER OF ONI BRIEFED US ON STATUS OF DSS-125 MODIFICATION PROJECT. MULTIPLE CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE EQUIPMENT RENDERING IT INOPPERABLE BELOW 3,000 FEET. NEC WILL MEET WITH SOVIETS PROBABLY AUGUST 25 AND SAY THAT HYDRO PRODUCTS, IN ANTICIPATION OF EQUIPMENT'S BEING PLACED ON MONITIONS LIST HAD SHIPPED ONLY AVAILABLE MODEL POST HASE. NEC WILL THEN EXPLAIN THAT ALTHOUGH MODEL IN JAPAN NOT IDENTICAL TO THAT DESCRIBED IN PUBLICITY BROCHURE, IT IS FULLY CAPABLE OF PERFORMING TASKS REQUIRED IN LAYING OKHOTSK SEA CABLE. FURTHERMORE, NEC WILL SAY, HYDRO PRODUCTS HAS BEEN DIRECTED BY USG TO RECOVER EQUIPMENT SHIPPED TO JAPAN BUT HAS PLEADED THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE SINCE IT IS NOW IN POSSESSION OF NEC.

2. ACCORDING TO OSER, NEC EXPECTS SOVIETS TO BE

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ANNOYED BUT WILL PROBABLY ACCEPT A SUBSTITUTE. QUESTION OF WHO PAYS FOR ANY FINANCIAL DAMAGES REMAINS TO BE WORKED OUT AMONG NEC, HYDRO PRODUCTS AND U.S. NAVY. OSER ALSO SAID THAT NEC HAS COOPERATED FULLY IN CLANDESTINE ALTERING OF OSS-125.

3. COMMENT. U.S. SECURITY OBJECTIVES HAVE NOW

APPARENTLY BEEN MET. WE WOULD HOPE THAT
WASHINGTON AGENCIES WILL WORK OUT A WAY TO ASSURE THAT
NEC, WHOSE COOPERATION WAS OBVIOUSLY ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS
OF MODIFYING DSS-125, WILL NOT SUFFER UNDUE FINANCIAL
LOSS.
MANSFIELD

SECRET

NNN

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